

Bitesize Newsletter

Snippets from BNA & Outside Source

1891 - TALES of SEWAGE - 1899

1891 JUNE - THE DRAINAGE OF LOCHWINNOCH ALLEGED SERIOUS DEFECTS. — Mr Johnstone called attention to the report of the Medical Officer in regard to the drainage of Lochwinnoch, and reported that the committee which had been appointed to confer with the doctor on the subject had decided to recommend that a drainage scheme for Lochwinnoch be agreed to. The case of Lochwinnoch, he might state, was a clamant one, and called for immediate action being taken.

1891 JUNE - The Clerk (Mr J. MacDougall) laid on the table a requisition signed by fifteen inhabitants of Lochwinnoch, asking the Council to form the village into a special drainage district.

Mr Johnstone moved that the prayer of the petition be granted, and in doing so said the doctor had furnished a very strong report as to the absolute necessity of attending to the drainage of Lochwinnoch.

Mr McDowall, in seconding the motion, said it was imperative that something should be done to improve the present condition of things. The Chairman remarked that there was not sufficient rating power within the district to meet the cost of the scheme. He thought the matter should be delayed, and moved accordingly.

After some discussion, the Chairman withdrew his amendment, and Mr Johnstone's proposal was thereupon agreed to.

1891 JULY - The Clerk reported that the Joint Standing Committee of the Council had declined to consent to the proposed drainage district for Lochwinnoch on the ground that there was no available assessment within the proposed area to meet the cost.

The Rev, Mr Murray said he should like to ask whether, when the Act compelled a district authority to make certain sanitary arrangements, another authority could come in and tell that authority it was not to do its duty in the matter.

The Chairman pointed out that the Joint Standing Committee had given its decision under the Act.

1896 JUNE - Water and Drainage.—Mr. Murray, sanitary inspector for Lower Renfrewshire, in his annual report, says:—This village has an abundant supply of good water, which has been introduced into most of the properties. There are also, however, street-wells. The waste from sinks, etc., is discharged into the run channels or cesspools. This state of matters is not commendable. The sub-



Harry Fenion

[His achievements here](#)



On OAP Trip

[More photos here](#)



The CROSS

[More old photos here](#)

1879 Agricultural Society

The Annual Exhibition was held in the Town Hall on Saturday.

Some beautiful house flowers in pots, and a magnificent cluster of grapes, were shown from the conservatories of Henry O. Lee, of Castlesemple, and Henry Macdowall, of Garthland.

1888 Abbey Asylum Trip

On Wednesday, the inmates of the Abbey Asylum, accompanied by a number of the officials and friends, drove to Calder Glen, Lochwinnoch, in two buses and a brake. During the day, the weather was splendid, and the excursionist, appeared to enjoy themselves thoroughly.

committee is quite alive to the urgency of the case, but the assessment available for the purpose is at present all required to meet the debt connected with the water-supply. The County Council required to pay out of the Public Health General Assessment levied over the second district (exclusive of water supply districts) sums amounting "in cumulo" to £385, to meet the excess of the annual expenditure in the water district over what could be defrayed from the available assessment, hope, however, that the ways and means will be forthcoming in some way to carry through this much-required improvement.

1899 JUNE - That the village of Lochwinnoch has been making great strides in many respects will be generally admitted, but there is one matter upon which it is, unfortunately, open to reproach. The question of drainage is one which has troubled the local authorities for some time. The county sanitary inspector has, in his annual reports, declared the village to be in a very unsatisfactory condition, from his point of view. It is true, matters have been allowed to lie dormant, in order to gain experience as to the best means for the disposal of the sewage. The local authorities have their eyes upon the Septic system, which was recently adopted by the Barrhead Commissioners; and in his annual report, just issued, Mr James Murray, C.E., remarks "that this is the best system for the village of Lochwinnoch, and must be faced without delay." In view of this important statement by the county sanitary inspector, the writer has been making inquiries concerning the new purification works at Barrhead. It seems that the system has been copied from the city of Exeter, in England, where a process of sewage treatment by septic tanks has been experimented with some success.

1899 JULY - The village had been constituted a Special Drainage District since **1891**; but no works had been undertaken, principally in consideration of the depressed condition of the local industries. With better times, and an increasing population, it appeared as if matters were ripe for an advance. The crux of the matter was the question of sewage disposal, so as to obviate the contamination of the fine sheet of water which forms the natural outlet for the drainage of the village, and Dr. Munro was instructed to report upon the subject. Dr. Munro, County medical officer advised that, while the question of the best methods of sewage, purification could not be regarded as finally settled, works constructed upon the bacterial principle would probably be found to yield satisfactory results. The chief sanitary inspector reported that the necessary work of main-sewerage and sewerage-purification could be carried out for a sum of about £2,300, of which about £1000 was for purification works. The clerk reported that a rate of 7d. per £ would provide the necessary funds. The sub-committee approved of the scheme, and the District Committee authorised an application to be made for the necessary sanctions for a loan covering the capital sum involved. Negotiations were then entered into with the proprietor of the lands upon which the sewage purification works would require to be established, for the purchase of a site. The necessary explanations as to the methods, etc., were furnished; but the proprietor finally intimated that until evidence could be produced that such works could be carried on over a series of years with satisfactory results, he was not prepared to treat with the committee. Under these circumstances, it was resolved to delay further procedure until further evidence bearing on the point could be obtained.

1899 SEPT. - Inspection of Sewage System.—

Last Thursday, Mr. Shand Harvey, of Castle Semple, and Mr. McDowall, of Garthland, accompanied by Dr. Campbell Munro, paid a visit to the new Sewage Works at Barrhead. These works are constructed on the septic tank principle, and are the first of the kind in Scotland. It is possible that the system may adopted in Lochwinnoch.

LOCHWINNOCH - QUEEN'S JUBILEE 1887

A meeting of the ladies of this parish, convened by Mrs. Shand-Harvey of Castlesemple, and Mrs. MacDowall of Garthland, was held in the Court Hall, on the 15th inst. There was a good attendance. Mrs. Shand-Harvey presided, and briefly explained the objects of the meeting. Mrs. MacDowall was appointed hon. secretary and treasurer. Collecting cards were distributed to all the ladies present, and it was agreed that another meeting should be held on the 12th April, when all the collecting cards and sums of money would be received.

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[LOCHWINNOCH UNITED SABBATH SCHOOL EXCURSION 1886](#)

The village was quite en fête on Saturday, 5th inst. Through the kindness of Lady E. Lee Harvey, late of Castlesemple, the children belonging to the various Sabbath-schools were treated to an excursion to Largs. As was to be expected, there was a large muster at the hour of assembling, and as the little ones, headed by a piper and with banners flying, started for the station, their departure was witnessed by a large number of their parents and well-wishers. Special carriages were provided in the ordinary train, and Largs was reached shortly after 12 o'clock.

Broomfields were made the rendezvous, and there and along the neighbouring shore the children disported themselves thoroughly the livelong day. Favoured by good weather, the young excursionists enjoyed themselves thoroughly. To many of them, the day will be noted as a red-letter day in their existence. For, never having even seen the sea or ships before, the charm and fascination of novelty were upon them, and made an impression that will not soon be obliterated. Ample provision was made to satisfy the demands of young stomachs, sharp set by the bracing sea breezes. Considerable liberty was allowed the children to see the attractions of the famous watering place; and at intervals during the day, games were heartily engaged in. A most delightful day was brought to a close by a safe return.

Before parting, the children were brought up in Harvey-square, and gave three ringing cheers for Lady Harvey. The various ministers and the Sunday-school superintendents are to be congratulated on the successful way in which they carried out Her Ladyship's wishes, and the children on their uniform good conduct and willing obedience.



Stile at Burnfoot

More local photos [here](#)



CALDER GLEN MILL

[Whitten's Mill]

More [here](#)



WAR MEMORIAL

Nov. 2019

1906

LOCHWINNOCH ANGLING CLUB

ON TUESDAY OVER 100,000 FRY WERE PLACED IN THE REARING PONDS AND TRIBUTARY RIVULETS

1886

CASTLESEMPLE LOCH

TWELFTH PROVINCE BONSPIEL

410 COMPETITORS ON THE ICE

1890

THERE IS NO PRESENT APPEARANCE OF THE STRIKE OF THE BEITH AND LOCHWINNOCH CABINETMAKERS COMING TO AN END

9th May 1803

Robert Carswell

An Old Batchelor —Lately died, at Lochwinnoch, Robert Carswell, aged 80. He was a native of Ireland, but left it about 40 years ago, and came to Lochwinnoch, where he resided till his death. He wrought* as a labourer, but would not take more than 2d. per day and his victuals,* and 4d. during harvest. He lived in a cot-house, into which he scarcely would admit any visitor.

Not being able to work for about two years, he lived during that time in the utmost penury; greens, wild herbs, and potatoes, were his ordinary food; and had it not been for a neighbouring farmer, whom he sometimes visited he would have starved himself.

When his house was inspected after his death, there were found in it several small baskets suspended with cords from the roof, provisions of different kinds, butter, flesh, &c. all totally spoiled. A little barrel was hung in the same manner with meal, which had been kept for years.

His bed cover was of rushes sewed together, and his seat was a piece of turf with the root of an old tree for its back. Not wishing to encourage visitors, there was no other seat in the house. There were two chests, one filled with clothes, though he would by no means permit a pair of blankets to be taken out during his illness. In the same chest there was found a guinea in gold, with 19s. in silver; the guinea he brought from Ireland. In three or four small holes in the floor, near the fire-place, was found upwards of 3l. partly in copper. The other chest contained old books. He has been known to borrow books, copies of which were found in the chest, wishing no doubt to spare his own and to use those of others in preference.



* **Wrought** is an old form of the past tense of work.

* **Victuals** provide with food.

Further reading: [Growing up in Lochwinnoch \[1920's & 30's\]](#)

1950 ***Lochwinnoch is a grand spot to be in when things go wrong!***

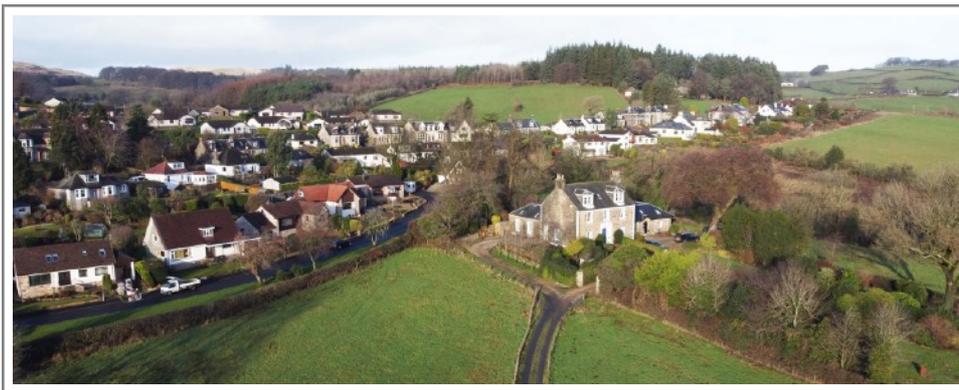
A friend of mine travelled by car from Gourock the other Saturday— and what should happen but his wee kiddie got a finger jammed in the car door. Up came the policeman to see if he could help; but jammed fingers are a ticklish problem, and he advised seeing the doctor. Meanwhile a neighbour came running out to see if sticking plaster would be any use. The doctor wasn't at home—but was found just up the road, visiting. So he put off his game of golf, and took the wee lad to his surgery. There, with skilful aid, a kind word, a cup of tea (with a cream cake for the victim) —and the emergency was over. My friend came away thinking Lochwinnoch must be a place where the stranger is in the safe keeping of the whole village. And isn't that the whole secret of Scottish hospitality? I believe it is.

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Gun Toting Minister

Saturday 28th. December, 1867



Christmas morning, between one and two o'clock, some daring burglars made a desperate effort to break into the manse at Lochwinnoch. Their mode of procedure was this. Some of the piety attempted to attract the notice of the watchdog at the back part of the house, which became very furious, while the others occupied themselves busily in breaking the window at the end of the drawing room. At the time this was going on a Maltese terrier, who occupies the kitchen, ran up stairs to the bed-room doors and demanded attention. The sound of the burglars was distinctly heard as if a ladder had been suddenly placed against the wall. Upon this the minister rose and examined the rooms, and then went to the door with a six-barrel revolver loaded, and discharged one of the chambers, but the scoundrels had decamped. Four large panes were completely smashed, and stones had been used remove the screw of the window, but the time had been too short for them. Their heels saved them this time from an unpleasant reception.

1870 Seasonable Benevolence.— From the annual liberal donations of James O. Lee Harvey, Esq.; Lady Elizabeth and Henry Lee Harvey, Esq., of Castlesemple; and John McEwen, Esq., of Glenlora, and others; 112 poor persons have been each supplied with cart of coals, which the farmers cheerfully carted gratuitously.

1869 Sheriff Criminal Court.— Hugh McMichael, labourer, John Kerr, carter, and Dugald McMichael, labourer were charged with stealing from the copper mines at Lochwinnoch 58 fathoms of rope, 60lbs. of gaskin rope, 6 jumpers, a hatchet, a saw, an anvil, a pump, a bucket, a spear, and ten hundredweight of old iron. They pleaded guilty.



Jack & Annie Orr
Further family photos
here



Fancy Dress Parade
Circa 1950



The 3 photos above
contributed by

Amanda Mackie

1954

British Railways (Scottish region) are letting holiday accommodation in railway coaches converted and specially equipped for the purpose.

So popular is the appeal of this type of family holiday that the number of Camping Coaches available this summer in Scotland has been increased from 15 to 25, each Coach providing accommodation for six people at weekly rentals from £7 to £12 10 shillings.

These railway holiday homes comprise living room, kitchen and three bedrooms, and all bed and table linen, crockery, cooking utensils and cutlery are provided. The coaches are sited amid some of the loveliest scenic and holidays centres. The Station Master, with his knowledge of the immediate locality, will be an on-the-spot asset with advice on outings, fishing, golf, and will be of assistance in many other ways.

1901

Lochwinnoch was a favourite rendezvous on Saturday afternoon, but most folk were satisfied with a look at the ice on the loch without indulging in closer inspection. There was, indeed, more fun to be

got out of that ice on shore than on it, for the rash ones that would venture on the treacherous serfs, went popping through into the icy water every here and there. Big fires and hot drinks were in great demand for the unlucky rash ones, and, fortunately, nothing serious happened, the whinge being all more or less of a ludicrous rather than a dangerous nature.



OLD JOKE OF THE MONTH

"What's the difference between dancing and marching?" the girl asked her dancing partner. "I don't know." he answered. "I thought so." she commented wearily. "Shall we sit down?"



Saturday 18th Sept. 1886



The Morton had a better time of it in the first round of the Scottish Cup ties this year than last. Their opponents were Lochwinnoch, of that ilk, and our local cracks proceeded thither on Saturday. They were favoured with a relaxation in the elements, although the ground was very bad, owing to the previous heavy rains. The sturdy sons of Lochwinnoch offered a dogged resistance to the vigorous onslaught of their more experienced opponents, and the greater part of the first was exhausted before the Morton forwards made an impression. After this, however, the Lochwinnoch fell like chaff before the wind, and the visitors contented themselves by making the game at the close stand six goals to nothing in their favour.

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The Dumb Proctor

Found by the Ewing family when plowing, it is used as the headstone for James Ewing in the Lochwinnoch Cemetery.

Below is an abridged account from 1866.



This is the name given to a stone monument, preserved in a garden on the south side of High Street, Lochwinnoch; but where the site of it originally was, is not known.

John Caldwell, of Johnshill, surgeon, who wrote a historical description of Lochwinnoch, published in 1773, was the first to describe this monument. He says regarding it, "About a quarter mile westward from the village, and upon the north side of the loch, is Calderhauch, upon

1898 [18TH JUNE]

A LARGE CROWD OF VISITORS ARRIVED BY TRAIN TO LOCHWINNOCH.

THEY SPENT THE DAY IN A FIELD ABOVE THE RAILWAY STATION

1898 [18TH JUNE]

HOWWOOD WAS BESIEGED BY ABOUT 600 VISITORS.

THEY SPENT THE DAY IN A COUPLE OF FIELDS NEXT TO THE RAILWAY STATION

1898 [18 JUNE]

CALDER GLEN

RESOUNDED TO PEELS OF LAUGHTER FROM NUMEROUS COUPLES OF YOUNG MEN AND MAIDENS



JOHN GILMOUR
More Veterans can be found [here](#)



The DRINKING WELL
on the Castle Semple Estate Wall 2021

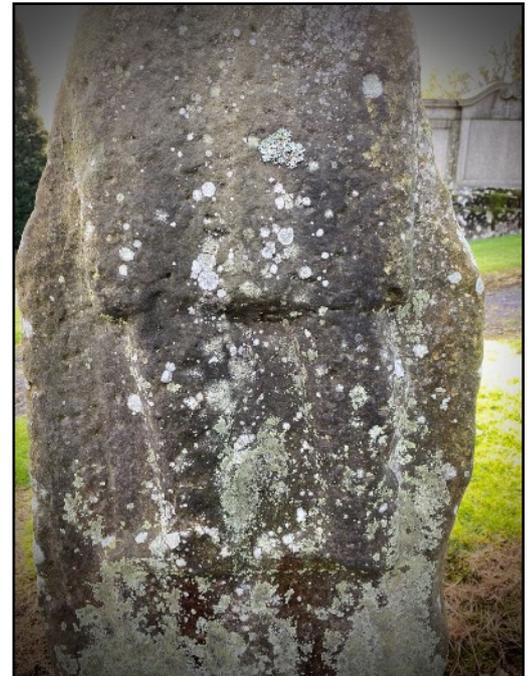


CALDERBANK MILL
From the Parker Love Collection

More info [here](#)

whose hauch, nigh to the village, stands an ancient monument or statue of stone, with the effigy of a man the one side, and upon the other side is the effigy of a man riding upon an ass or quadruped like an ass, with letters and writing upon the same in the old Saxon language, which monument is fixed upon a pedestal underground.

The monument consists, of two stones, one square shaped pedestal, and the other an upright shaft, the latter being let into a groove of the pedestal, and thereby maintained in an upright position. That there are letters on the shaft near the base is true, although this has been denied. They appear in three consecutive lines across the foot of the shaft under the figure of the man riding, but whether they are in the Saxon character or not, cannot now be ascertained, owing to their being greatly defaced.



Crosses were erected for many purposes; but chiefly by waysides to inspire devotion, and remind travellers of their duty. They were set up often in the neighbourhood of chapels, and kirks, and often also at fords where there was danger in crossing. Prayers were always offered by the devout at these crosses to the Virgin, to our Saviour, or to particular Saints for their intercession with Heaven; and as these commonly had the Virgin, or Saviour, or both, figured on them, they might be called, as in this case, Dumb Proctors. The figures of course were Dumb or speechless. Crosses were also set up in market places, and to mark the boundaries of land; and they occur to the latter use as early as A.D.528. They were held sacred; and on that account no man was for conscience sake inclined to remove them.

Proctor, or Procutor, is an advocate, or one who pleads for another in a court (prolocutor).

There are 2 YouTube videos on the Dumb Proctor.

N.B. In these articles, I attempt to keep the spelling etc. as printed in the newspaper.

FEBRUARY 28TH 1857 LOCHWINNOCH

On Monday, the 23d instant, a servant girl in the farm Kame, in this parish, lost a sum of money amounting to £2 sterling, which was enclosed in an envelope. Mr David Thomson, the detective officer of this parish, found the money; and, after much inquiry and great perseverance, found out the poor girl, and generously handed her the whole sum before she was long aware that she had suffered the loss.

Such disinterested conduct and sterling honesty cannot be too much praised, and ought to be imitated by all.

